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SOURCE Medycyna Weterynaryjna, Vol X, No 2, 1954, pp 60-62THE USE OF VACCINES IN POLAND TO COMBAT FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASETadeusz Kobusiewicz, State Vet Inst  
Foot-and-Mouth Disease Div  
Zdunska Wola

The author discusses recent epizootics of foot-and-mouth disease which occurred in several European countries, among them: East Germany, Austria, Belgium, Holland, France, Italy, Sweden, and Switzerland. He states that severe financial losses were incurred in these countries, and that losses in France alone amounted to more than 4 million francs. The epizootics were caused by O, A, A<sub>1</sub>, and C strains of the virus; therefore, monovalent, bivalent, and trivalent vaccines were used extensively in combating the disease. Quaedu- lig, a Dutch scientist, prepared three vaccines, an O-A vaccine, and A<sub>1</sub> vaccine, and a C vaccine, which were used to combat and finally control the 51-52 epizootic. The vaccines used in East Germany were supplied by the Research Institute for Veterinary Medicine, located on the Island of Hohen.

Dr Roehrer, Director of the Institute on Riems, is quoted as saying that the use of vaccines is an inadequate means of fighting the disease, since vaccines can not be produced in advance of epizootics in sufficient quantities because of their instability and because of the fact that they impart immunity only against the particular strains of the virus from which they have been prepared. It was found that herds vaccinated with an O-A vaccine later succumbed to the A<sub>1</sub> strain of the virus; and after subsequently being vaccinated with A<sub>1</sub> vaccine, they fell prey to the C strain. The development and general use of a C vaccine helped bring the epizootics under control.

The general consensus of opinion among authors writing on the subject, according to the author of this article is that the Roehrer vaccines are of little practical use since so many types of the disease occur and, in each instance, the vaccine in order to be effective must be prepared from the specific strain afflicting the given animals.

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At present in order to combat outbreaks of the disease most expeditiously, the tongues of infected animals are flown to the Institute in special airplanes. The virus obtained from the epithelial lining of these tongues is then used to prepare specific vaccines.

The Soviet Union, according to the author, finds it difficult to maintain the necessary amounts of the various types of foot-and-mouth vaccines required to assure the continuing production of meat, and therefore relies more on strict enforcement of the veterinary-police regulations than on the use of vaccines.

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